



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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Fourth Quarter, 2013

Whole No. 189

New Discovery: Scott No. 52 with Partial CANAL ZONE Overprint

by Michael Demski

A new major variety on a Canal Zone stamp has been discovered nearly 100 years after the stamp was issued. It is Scott No. 52 with the entire CANAL and part of the ZONE missing, as shown in Fig. 1. The story of its discovery is given below.



Fig. 1 Scott No. 52 with most of overprint missing

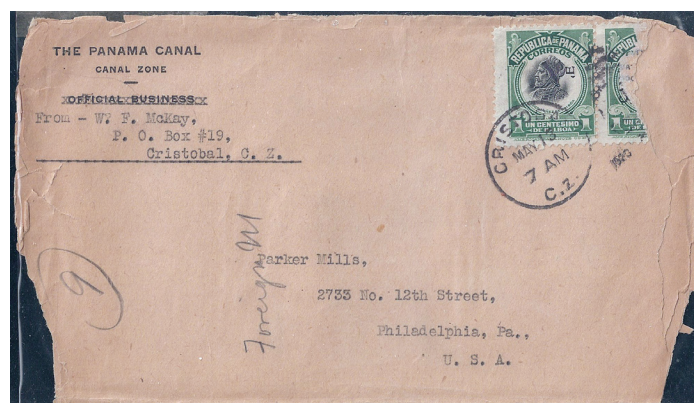


Fig. 2 Cover with new variety on Scott No. 52

Earlier this year I received an auction catalog in the mail. As usual I looked through the catalog for any Canal Zone lots. The auction had several individual, remainder, and collection lots of Canal Zone material, several of which were of interest. Fortunately the auction was within traveling distance and I made plans to attend. The day of the auction I arrived early to examine the lots. As is my custom I looked through every Canal Zone lot; you never know what you might find. When I got to the remainder and collection lots, reviewing was slowed down by the volume of material in each lot. Finally I came to a small collection that had some interesting material. The lot was described as a collection of stamps. As I was going through the lot there was a cover (See Fig. 2) stuck in between the pages. The cover was in poor condition and that would be a generous evaluation. I pulled the cover out from between the pages to examine it. I couldn't believe what I thought I saw. I immediately reached for my magnifying glass to take a closer look. The cover contained one Scott No. 52 and a piece of another No. 52 which were joined in a pair. The piece of the right No. 52

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Upcoming Regional Meetings

NOJEX 2014

May 30 – June 1, 2014, Secaucus, NJ
(see show program for meeting details)

Future National Meetings as a Participating Society

WESTPEX 2014

San Francisco, CA, April 25-27, 2014

CHICAGOPEX 2014

Itasca (Chicago), IL, November 21-23, 2014

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The Canal Zone Philatelist

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Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Scans are preferred for figures of stamps or covers; however enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write or EMAIL the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

Commonly used abbreviations

BEP = Bureau of Engraving & Printing

CZ Stamps = *Canal Zone Stamps*, by Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1986

CZP = *The Canal Zone Philatelist*

Entwistle = *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, 2nd Edition*, by Lawson P. Entwistle, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1992

French = *Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on US Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps*, by Loran C. French, Bureau Issues Association, 1979

Scott = *Scott's Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps*, current edition

Tatelman = *Canal Zone Postage Stamps*, by E.I.P. Tatelman, Canal Zone Postal Service, Mt. Hope, CZ, 1961

ABNCo = American Bank Note Company

NPM = National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institution

Journal citations are *Journal Name*, Volume No., Pages.
Anything without a byline is written by the Editor.

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New Discovery: Scott No. 52

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had part of the CANAL overprint; the rest of the stamp was torn off the cover. However, what was of real interest was the left copy of No. 52. It was missing all of the CANAL and ZO of the overprint with only a dot of black ink where the N in ZONE would have been. The only part of the overprint that was on the stamp was the E of ZONE. It was very difficult for me to stay composed. I had to sit in the auction for a long time as the Canal Zone lots were near the end. Finally the CZ lots were called and I won the lot with the cover.

When the package with the lot arrived in the mail, I immediately opened it up and examined the cover to see if I could determine how the error was caused. After spending a considerable amount of time examining the stamp, I could not find any evidence of how the error was created.

I decided to take the cover to the CZSG meeting at NOJEX to see what kind of ideas might be offered as to the cause of the error. Two of the attendees at the meeting were Dick Bates and Gary Weiss. After much discussion they both strongly suggested that I send the cover for expertization. So off went the cover to APEX for a certificate. After the usual 2 months the cover came back with certificate no. 204937 describing it as "Canal Zone, Scott No. 52, with overprint reading 'NE' only, used on flawed and fragile cover, genuine." In discussions with Dick Bates, we determined that there does not seem to have been a foldover of some part of the stamp on which the partial overprint occurs that caused the part of the overprint to be missing. There is no crease – at least not in the right place – on the stamp, so a crease on the stamp with the variety did not cause the variety.

The best guess is that the variety arose from a foldover of a piece of selvage that obstructed part of the overprint. If you look closely, in addition to the missing CANAL and ZO and part of the N, there is a tiny bit of the UL corner of the E missing too. A straight line can be drawn along the N and including the missing bit of the E. So it seems that something with a straight edge – a bit of selvage probably from beyond the LL corner of the stamp – folded across the stamp and obstructed the overprint on that part of the stamp, though it is possible the obstruction came from a bit of foreign matter between the overprint and the stamp.

Thanks to Tom Lera of the National Postal Museum for examining the cover under high intensity illumination to confirm there is no overprint on the back of the stamp.

We now have a new error to add to the CZ Check List, an error discovered 92 years after it was printed. Keep your eyes open as there may still be other CZ errors lying undiscovered.

For Sale

CANAL ZONE SPECIMENS

Irwin Gibbs

**1699 El Camino Real, Suite 100,
Millbrae, CA 94030**

(650) 866-3757

Is This a Postmaster's Provisional?

by Robert J. Karrer

In the world of philately, a “postmaster’s provisional” is a stamp, stamped envelope, or merely a “paid” handstamp on an envelope, all of which show that postage was prepaid and the stamps were recognized by postmasters as indicating postage prepaid. Provisionals were created when regular government issues were not available at the local post office or offices.

From the earliest days of the Canal Zone Postal Service (CZPS) in June 1904, until the close of business on September 30, 1979, collectors have not had to worry about or deal with provisionals – possibly until now.

My story goes back to the Fall of 1967, when I was first assigned to the US Army School of the Americas at Ft. Gulick. At the time a first class letter was rated at 5c per ounce for surface mail, and 8c for airmail to the United States. All Canal Zone post offices were well stocked with stamps and postal stationery. Among the stamps then available were obsolete ½c Davis and 1½c Magoon stamps (Scott Nos. 136 and 137) which had replaced the 1939 overprinted Franklin and Martha Washington stamps (Scott Nos. 118 and 119) on August 16, 1948. Collectors have long referred to these as “fractionals” which are eagerly collected in some circles, and some wonderful exhibits have been created to show their use.

After the introduction of the new stamps there was no rate increase until May 1, 1952, when “penny postcards” went up to 2c from the decades-old “penny” rate. Then, on August 1, 1958, letters went up to 4c and airmail to 7c; on January 7, 1963 they went up again to 5c and 8c, and finally on January 7, 1968, there was yet another rate increase to 8c and 10c.

When rates change there is no immediate problem with new stamps as the old ones are still “good.” But what to do about postal stationery? Collectors are well aware of the stationery created through the years by the CZPS by adding postage using the revaluing dies prepared for that purpose. But these were not available until some time after the rate change occurred. What happened in the interim? Stationery was revalued at the post offices themselves using available stamps to make up the difference, and Nos. 136 and 137 would naturally be candidates for this treatment.

So, the use of such stamps on stamped envelopes and postal cards may cause them to be considered good candidates for “provisionals.” This, then, is the essence of my contention that these are indeed often postmaster’s provisional usages as these fractionals by the late 1950s -1960s had no real use any more. However, the always-frugal CZPS did not do away with them and stocks remained to be used by whoever wished to add them to an envelope!

But, there is also some convincing anecdotal evidence which seals the case. Soon after we arrived in the Canal Zone I stopped by the Ft. Gulick post office to get some stamps for personal correspondence, and so I asked for maybe 20 stamped envelopes which in this case turned out to be obsolete 4c examples (Scott #U17) with a pair of Davis ½c stamps already affixed to make up the current 5c rate for surface mail. Sadly, I do not seem to have retained any of these either mint or used, but Fig. 1 shows such an example mailed at Cristobal on March 3, 1968, shortly after the rate increase for a surface mail letter had been raised to 6c.

I well recall commenting to the mail clerk at the time of



Fig. 1 4c Postal Card with 2c Additional postage added. It was canceled during the period after the surface mail rate went up to 6c but before stationery revalued to 6c was available.

purchase that: “These envelopes are pretty neat, and as a collector I appreciate them.” The clerk responded with words to the effect that “This is the only way we can use the old basically unusable stamps that we are still stuck with.”

Another collector, my friend Gene Hamlin, later told me that this was the normal policy used by many if not all of the Canal Zone post offices. He showed me several examples of such usages that he had been able to pick up at various Canal Zone government or private offices. Some of these I still retain, and others are in the hands of collectors.

All this information I mentally stored away for possible future use, and it was only recently that I came to realize that it needs to be put down in writing so future collectors will be able to understand why so many Canal Zone stamped envelopes and even postal cards from this period have added franking with the fractional issues. I might add that I have not seen any examples using the 1939 issues as the rates had not changed by the time they were pulled from service.

Anyway, as my interest in postal history grew, I paid more attention to rates and the stamps used to meet them. And so, I came to look for usages of Nos. 136-137, but these are rare. At present my mini-collection encompasses a very few dozen covers, and I invite other collectors to take part in my proposed survey of their use. Usages on Philatelic Agency mail are sometimes seen too, but not on stamped envelopes, so I do not consider them to be provisionals. Instead they were attempts to also use up supplies of now-obsolete stamps.

There is no way these covers will ever make it into any of the standard catalogs, but that does not mean they aren’t worth collecting! Others will note that these are “local” provisionals much like the many originating in such countries as Russia, Germany, and even our neighbor Mexico through the years. I have not spotted any official CZPS document instructing postmasters (or financial branch superintendents as they were called), but their documented use from many post offices seems to mitigate against the claim that they are strictly of local and apparently spontaneous origin.

To help show the wide range of these usages, let me show some more examples. The key thing is that none seems to be philatelic in nature, even if from collectors like me who used them on ordinary correspondence that simply was retained. Most interestingly, many are used on local letters with only a relatively few on letters sent “stateside.” I welcome comments by other postal history-oriented members.

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Postmaster Provisional

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My earliest example (Fig. 2) is a meeting notice on a 1c postal card (UX10) mailed at Cristobal on October 31, 1952, some months after the rate increase.



Fig. 2 UX10 postal card with two 1/2c stamps to make up 2c rate

I still have four of the 4c stamped envelopes (U17) with a pair of No. 136. Three are “drop letters” from and to Balboa between February 17 and April 13, 1969 (Fig. 3). A 5c usage (Fig. 4) from Cristobal on December 19, 1966 shows the 1st class rate then in effect.



Fig. 3 4c Envelope (U17) with two 1/2c stamps additional postage

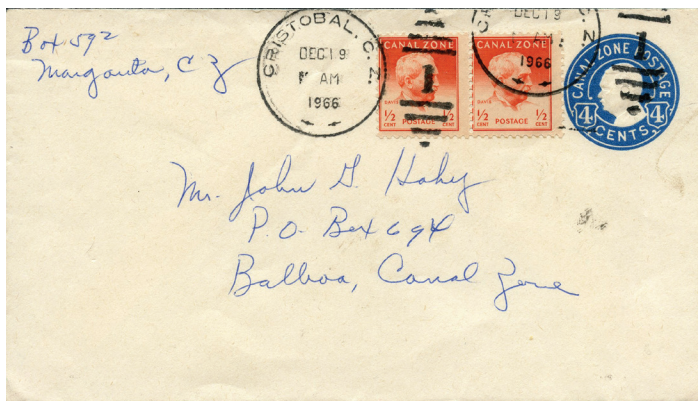


Fig. 4 Up-rated envelope paying the 5c rate

Some postmasters also had supplies of No. 137 on hand that needed to be used up too. I have a few on large #10 envelopes (also U17). All are intra-Canal Zone letters to the Panama & Canal Zone Auto Club; three pay the 1st class rate of 5c to



Fig. 5 Envelope uprated to 7c

Balboa from Coco Solo, Cristobal, and Margarita, while one from Quarry Heights overpays the drop letter rate.

The fractionals are also known on airmail covers; my three are on UC3 (Fig. 5) and are naturally sent to US addresses during the 7c airmail rate period.

There must be additional examples of other self-described provisionals. For example, I remember envelopes with additional stamps added after rates increased between 1972 and 1978. However, by mid-1972 the old fractionals had been withdrawn from sale at last. For a period in 1972 many plate blocks were sold at the Philatelic Agency in order to accrue some income before the remainders were destroyed. I well recall a pair of collectors at USSOUTHCOM who had accumulated quite a number of these when we returned to the Isthmus in June 1972. But none was being sold by then in the post offices as I tried and failed to find any.

It is a well-known truism that, in the postwar years especially, relatively few examples of most postal stationery items actually saw use, especially the envelopes, as the additional charge for the actual envelope was in excess of what they could be purchased for at local retail outlets in both the civilian and military communities in the Canal Zone. So, as a result I believe that few if any provisionals were prepared by individual postal personnel in those years. I know for a fact that at Quarry Heights, which should be considered typical of such post offices, the local chief did not prepare any and instead turned in supplies of old envelopes so they could be revalued at the La Boca printing plant (thus leaving the additional postage to be affixed by the postal patrons themselves). Since I was actively making “sets” of all local postmarks on each of the postal stationery items as they were issued during that period, I went to great lengths to get the used envelopes back.

So, I conclude that the period of “provisional use” was likely quite limited to 1952 to perhaps 1969 or so. It is an exciting thing to be able to identify such usages, and I hope that CZSG members will also find them interesting as a real challenge to acquire. Perhaps one day someone will put together a modest display of these usages for us all to enjoy.

Editor: The article provided by Bob Karrer raises several interesting questions.

The believability of this possible uprating of certain postal stationery items as being officially sanctioned is much greater given several facts discovered subsequent to my receipt of Bob Karrer's submitted article. Including them in an Editor's note is justified as they lend believability to these as valid

provisional usages.

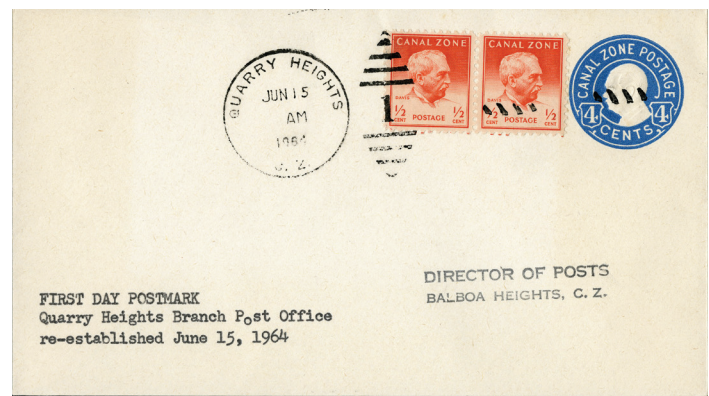
First, corroboration by others who were in the Canal Zone and who experienced buying postal stationery that had been uprated would be a valuable confirmation that such items were available to patrons in the CZ post offices. A message to Wayne Worthington brought the following response: "I never got uprated PSE except those with the printed rate changes, but I do recall the Quarry Heights postmaster grumping about them. He knew I collected stamps and wanted me to buy them. I did occasionally to spice up mail to customers." Thus adds credence to the claim that such uprated postal stationery was available, at least in some post offices. One purpose of publishing this article is to ask others who were in the Zone during this era to communicate with Bob or your Editor if their experiences included purchasing such items with added postage already affixed in the CZ post offices.

Second, the Editor of *Canal Zone Postal Stationery*, Irwin Gibbs, provided the following:

Rumors have circulated for a long time that postal stationery was adjusted to meet a new rate by adding stamps, thus avoiding the loss that would be produced by destroying the stationery that no longer met the new rates. At least in the early days when postal stationery was made available by the CZPS, the majority of items were sold in full boxes to commercial users who had need of them, rather than as individual envelopes and cards sold over the counter. Rate changes produced a problem for these users, as they were surplus to those who had bought them prior to the rate change. Users were stuck with inventories of postal stationery at the wrong rates. Inventories of cards with the wrong rate were on hand in the CZPS, which accounts for their decision to revalue the cards and envelopes to meet the new rates using the dies produced by the Bureau with the additional value being added by local printers in the Zone under the watchful eyes of the representatives of the CZPS. The CZPS could not simply destroy them as they constituted an accountable item and accounting for such items was very tight. The recent release to the market of full boxes of a limited number of postal stationery items from the Brett accumulation, including lots sold by auction by Jacques Schiff, are an indication that these items were available.

And third, in my role at the NPM I decided to investigate the Canal Zone files housed there to determine if they could shed any light on this matter. The investigation to date has focused on the CZPS files moved to the Smithsonian after the Canal was transferred to Panama in 1979. There are two things that I have found thus far that provide insight on the question of whether these uprated items were sanctioned by the CZPS. The first is shown in Fig. 6. It is a card that marked the reopening of the Quarry Heights post office on June 15, 1964, and was sent to the Director of Posts in Balboa Heights with the first day postmark that ties two copies of No. 136 to the card. The absence of any message on the reverse side at least implies this card originated, traveled, and was received within the Canal Zone postal system, though of course it could be that the fractional postage was added to provide the sender with a usable card, rather than that it was taken from a stack of cards that already had the fractional postage applied to meet the new rate, but before revalued cards or new cards directly meeting the new rate became available.

But most revealing is a memo from E. F. Unruh, Director of Posts to the Civil Affairs Director with subject "Revalue and



From CZPS files courtesy of the National Postal Museum and Jim O'Donnell

Fig. 6 Item with fractional postage sent to Director of Posts

use of obsolete stamped envelope stock" — the date is June 19, 1963. The memo involves revaluing No. 8 3c-stamped envelopes by adding 5c with a die. But Mr. Unruh adds: "Until we were able to have these revalued by the printing plant, by imprinting 5c additional postage on each envelope, **we revalued some to take care of our immediate needs by affixing additional postage and rubber stamping them air mail.**" (Ed: Emphasis added)

So this shows that the Director of Posts not only knew about but it seems was involved in adding postage to create envelopes that met the new rates, at least during the interim period until the revalued postal stationery arrived. Though it only provides evidence specifically for meeting the 8c air mail rate, Mr. Unruh was Director of Posts for a considerable period during which fractional postage appears to have been added to postal stationery to meet the new rates, and it seems more than plausible that this became an acceptable practice within the CZPS. It even provides a sense as to why Wayne Worthington's comments about postal clerks grumbling about handling these items may have reflected on this as a practice imposed on them, and not altogether to their liking.

Certainly, it remains true that in looking at a cover that has had additional postage added, there is no way of telling whether the stamps were sold separately by the post office (at the time or earlier) and then added by the customer, or were sold at the post office with the stamps already affixed. Some covers or postal cards with additional postage added using fractionals might seem to show provisional usage. But the added postage lies on top of part of the return address. Thus the card was not sold with additional postage already applied. But the personal testimonials plus Mr. Unruh's memo indicate uprated covers can exist.

Please convey any personal observations about these items, and any other ideas or opinions you may have, to Bob Karrer at bkarrer@comcast.net or to your Editor.

Winners

At Thamespex 2013 held in Waterford, CT in October 2013, Alan Bentz earned the Grand Award for his exhibit, "Canal Zone First Day Covers," which also earned a Gold, the American Philatelic Society's Award for the Best APS member exhibit, the United States Stamp Society's President's Silver Medal Award for the best US Stamp exhibit, and the Thames Stamp Club Best FDC Award.

Via Trans-Atlantic Air Mail

by Paul F. Ammons and Dickson Preston

This is a follow-up to the article "Via Air Mail Within Europe" article by Paul Ammons in *CZP* 49(1):12 (2013) [1] with an emphasis on the Miscellaneous Notices (MisN) auxiliary handstamps applied to Canal Zone mail that was pre-paid to receive expedited Trans-Atlantic air mail service to Europe from the US beginning April 28, 1939.

Two auxiliary handstamps indicating the mailed item was to receive air mail service across the Atlantic are listed in *Entwistle*. [2] These are the two-line 'VIA TRANS-ATLANTIC/AIR MAIL,' MisN-11, and the two-line 'VIA AIRMAIL/TRANSATLANTIC,' MisN-11a. No additional auxiliary handstamps indicating the mailed item was to receive Trans-Atlantic air mail service are listed in *Entwistle* or its September 1997 addendum.

However, there may be at least four more previously undocumented MisN auxiliary handstamps indicating the mailed item was to receive air mail service across the Atlantic. Fig. 1 shows a February 13, 1941 cover to German-occupied Netherlands which received air mail service to the US (15c per ½ oz.) and air mail service across the Atlantic (30c per ½ oz.).

The one-line 'VIA TRANSATLANTIC AIRMAIL' auxiliary handstamp is currently not listed in *Entwistle*.



Fig. 1 Unlisted 'VIA TRANSATLANTIC AIRMAIL' marking

Fig. 2 shows a June 27, 1940 cover flown to the US and then by trans-Atlantic airmail to Great Britain at the same rates as the cover in Fig. 1. This one-line 'Trans-Atlantic Air-Mail' auxiliary hand stamp is also not listed in *Entwistle*.

Fig. 3 shows a June 26, 1948 cover to Belgium which received air mail service to the US (5c per oz.) and air mail service across the Atlantic (15c per ½ oz.). This cover was handstamped with two airmail markings: 'Par Avion-By Air Mail' in lilac, listed as MisN-10e in *Entwistle*, and an unlisted Trans-Atlantic auxiliary handstamp, 'TRANSATLANTIC/AIR MAIL,' in blue.

Fig. 4 shows a letter posted on March 17, 1942 to Great Britain which received air mail service to the US (15c per



Fig. 2 Unlisted 'Trans-Atlantic Air-Mail' marking



Fig. 3 MisN-10e plus unlisted 'TRANSATLANTIC/AIR MAIL'

½ oz.), air mail service across the Atlantic (30c per ½ oz.), and registry service (15c). The one-line handstamp 'VIA FAM 18' directs the letter to be flown on Foreign Air Mail Route number 18, which flew mail from New York to Lisbon, Portugal. From there the letter was flown to London by British airplanes at no additional charge. This marking is not listed in *Entwistle*.

Fig. 5 shows a letter mailed on June 28, 1940 addressed



Fig. 4 Unlisted Via F.A.M. 18

to the part of France occupied by the German military. It received air service to the US (15c per ½ oz.) and across the Atlantic (30c per ½ oz.). In France it was marked 'return to sender/postal relations/interrupted' in blue and sent back to New York, where it received the purple 'RETURN TO SENDER/SERVICE SUSPENDED' marking.



Fig. 5 Private 'By Trans-Atlantic/Air Mail'

The two-line handstamp 'BY TRANS-ATLANTIC/AIR MAIL' is, in our opinion, a private marking applied by a French shipping line. First, the marking is in black rather than the usual post office colors, purple or blue. Second, the type style differs from any of the auxiliary markings listed in *Entwistle*. Third, the marking was placed on the cover shown before either the "VIA AIR MAIL" etiquette or the stamps were applied. Finally, all four letters we have seen with this marking show the return address Box 1500, Cristobal, which was the address of French passenger and shipping line Compagnie Générale Transatlantique. So we conclude that the marking in question is a private one applied by this French shipping company.

Does anyone have examples of other auxiliary markings indicating expedited air mail service across the Atlantic or within and from Europe?

It should be noted that not all items mailed from the Canal Zone beginning April 28, 1939 that were to receive expedited air mail service across the Atlantic received auxiliary markings.

References

- [1] "Via Air Mail Within Europe," Paul Ammons, *CZP* 49(1):12 (2013).
- [2] Entwistle, Lawson P., *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, Second Edition*, Handbook No. 9, Canal Zone Study Group, 1992, pg. 148.

Scott 2014 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers reviewed by Jim Crumpacker

There were many changes in the 2014 *Scott* compared with the 2013 Edition, and not only in price adjustments. The 100 or so declines in value were offset by only about 10 increases but the downturns were nearly all on the order of 5%-10% and limited to less expensive items. Similarly, the increases were 10% or so on common issues. As 2013 was a slow year for better auction material, changes in high-priced pieces were essentially nil.

Additions were in the dozens, mostly for the "on cover" class often neglected in previous years. All of Scott Nos. 120-135 on cover now have a valuation, some with more than one to reflect foreign destinations. The Air Mails added 20 prices for stamps on cover. An appropriate commentary box is now inserted after No. 135 and before No. C1 to explain the difference between commercial and philatelic usages.

The staff added images for U14, UC2, and a better depiction of C1 and C2, all good ideas.

Shown here are examples of some of these changes and additions.

Scott No.	2013	2014
10, FDC	not listed	\$225.00
20, OG	\$40.00	37.50
45, OG	22.50	20.00
92, FDC	not listed	750.00
134, on cover	not listed	175.00
C12, OG, NH	5.00	6.00
J17, OG	50.00	55.00

The performance by staff and contributors was exceptional. Much of interest has been added and we all benefit from their hard work.

Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

As occurred in the last several calendar quarters, the auction offerings of Canal Zone philately during the third quarter, July 1-Sept. 30, 2013, consisted of scattered lots from a limited number of auction houses and had no particular theme or resonance.

Given below are some results. The first price entered is the hammer plus commission total and is followed in parentheses by the value shown in the *2013 Scott Catalogue*.

- 15, TG, H, F \$1495 (\$2500) Cherrystone
- 32c, bklt. pane of 6, handmade, error bklt. of four 1 cent panes. OG w/ interl. adhering and one side of perfs. trimmed, cover scuffs o/w VF \$590 (\$n/a) Kelleher
- 39c, bklt. pane of 6, imperf. margins TG, H, VF \$161 (\$550) RegencySuperior
- 39e, inverted center and ovp't reading down, OG, H, F-VF \$383 (\$650) Kelleher
- 39f, bklt. pane of 6, two panes in cpl. bklt. w/ inverted center and ovp't reading down, clipped perfs. one side and lightly stuck to interl., OG, NH, F-VF \$17250 (\$16000) Cherrystone
- 46a, ovp't reading down, glazed TG, H, F \$167 (\$375) RegencySuperior
- 67, brownish OG, H, F-VF \$325 (\$500) Kelleher
- 67a, ovp't reading down, OG, NH, barely F \$274 (\$800) RegencySuperior
- J19, pl. blk. of 6, #14027 w/ "F" top, TG, H, F \$137 (\$160) RegencySuperior

The firms that sold these stamps are:

Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers
119 57th St., Suite 316
New York, NY 10019

Kelleher Auctions	RegencySuperior
60 Newtown Rd.	PO Box 8277
Danbury, CT 06810	St. Louis, MO 63156-8277

Study Group News

President's Report

David Zemer

P.O. Box 654 Skoeyen
NO-0214 Oslo, Norway
sosahill@hotmail.com

The Canal Zone Study Group is preparing for an outstanding year of exhibits and meetings. Besides our normal participation in NOJEX and the APS StampShow we will be a Guest Society at WESTPEX, April 25-27, together with others including our sister society COPAPHIL, the Colombia-Panama Philatelic Study Group.

Then on November 21-23, we will be at CHICAGOPEX, as a Convening Society, together with three other groups, and two other sister societies, the US Possessions Philatelic Society and the International Philippine Philatelic Society. We were honored to be asked to participate at both of these prestigious shows, and because 2014 is the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal, the timing for us was perfect.

In the upcoming March 2014 CZP we will be able to provide more details on our meetings and presentations for WESTPEX, and hope to have a list of Canal Zone exhibits. If you intend to exhibit at either show, please apply as soon as possible as all of the frames will be full.

We have also agreed to share a table with COPAPHIL at the World Stamp Show-NY 2016. The exhibition takes place at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City from Saturday, May 28 to Saturday, June 4, 2016, so be prepared to attend this magnificent show as well!

Secretary's Report

Mike Drabik

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czsgsecretary@gmail.com

Season's greetings and Happy Holidays to all CZSG members. I hope that 2013 has been a good year for everyone and that 2014 will be even better.

CZSG membership as of December 1, 2013 stands at 562 members. Please join me in welcoming 23 new members, most of whom responded to the APS mailing I mentioned last quarter:

Steve Zarko, CZSG # 2694	Claude M. Edwards, CZSG # 2706
Glenn Cornell, CZSG # 2695	Bruce H. Heald, CZSG # 2707
Henry J. Applegate, CZSG # 2696	Edward York, CZSG # 2708
Ted DeGarmo, CZSG # 2697	Michael H. Johnson, CZSG # 2709
Richard Janusch, CZSG # 2698	Lloyd Thrower, CZSG # 2710
Joseph David Artze, CZSG # 2699	Jeffrey F. McCarty, CZSG # 2711
Steven F. Chown, CZSG # 2700	Douglas Moss, CZSG # 2712
Anthony D. Cholewinski, CZSG # 2701	Terence D. Smith, CZSG # 2713
Timothy A. Menzie, CZSG # 2702	Al Jorgenson, CZSG # 2714
Gregory M. Myers, CZSG # 2703	R. A. Duke, CZSG # 2715
Allen M. Young, CZSG # 2704	Chris Principe, CZSG # 2716
Alexander H. Joe, CZSG # 2705	

I am very happy to welcome back to the CZSG as dues paying members: Jim Collins, CZSG # 2565 and Joseph S. Irwin, CZSG # 2717.

We have been notified of address changes for the following CZSG members: Eric W. Farr, CZSG #162, Michael W. Lake, CZSG # 2161, and David Borghi CZSG #1003.

This is an election year for CZSG Officers and Directors, so please don't forget to mark your selections when you receive your ballot in the 2014 dues request envelopes. Finally, let's all make a New Year's resolution to recruit at least one new member to our organization in 2014.

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Revision of the *Canal Zone Stamps Check List* by Richard Spielberg

The Canal Zone Study Group (CZSG) "Check List of Canal Zone Stamps and Postal Stationery" was published in 1986 as part of the book *Canal Zone Stamps*, by Gilbert Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz. It is a listing of every recorded Postal Stamp and Postal Stationery entire, together with errors and varieties. Each item listed includes a brief description, date and quantity of issue, and plate (die) number as known. Also included in this listing are: Canal Zone Official Stamps, Booklet Panes and Booklets, Post Office Seals, Precancel stamps, Christmas Seals, Specimens, and Proofs and Essays.

The Check List has been revised/updated and is posted on the Canal Zone Study Group website: www.CanalZoneStudyGroup.com. The 50+ page revised Check List is a 2013 update of the CZ Stamps Check List supplemented by updates to the *Canal Zone Postal Stationery (2009 Edition)*, Irwin J. Gibbs, Editor.

The revisions are vetted based on new discoveries/information published since 1986 in *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, findings documented in member collections, and items from the American Bank Note Co. Specimens sales.

CZSG nomenclature (numbering, lettering, and decimal points) and expanded item description are based on the *Scott*

(2013) *Specialized Catalogue* and *Canal Zone Postal Stationery (2009 Edition)* numbering.

The postage stamp changes include addition of more than 30 new major numbered items, 400 noted varieties, and 10 deleted / revised numbered items. The postal stationery changes include new discoveries (Specimens) and new Earliest Known Use (EKU)/ First Day of Issue dates documented in the *CZP*.

The new major stamp varieties (changes) are: Scott/CZSG Nos: 1g, 14h, 16c, 20e 22h, 39h, 53f, 55c, 55f, 56c, 56d, 56e, 56h, 57b, 61c; Bliss Precancels; PD 10.PD-B, J11C, J11Cd, OX7; Essays: 120.E-125.E, C13TC1; Precancels: Type II 105.PCIII-4, 108.PCIII-4, 111.PCIII-4, 112.PCIII-4, 113.PCIII-4, 138.PCIII-4, and 139.PCIII-4.

The new lettered / numbered stamp varieties consist of close to 400 discoveries of additional CANAL to ZONE overprint spacings and lengths, "wrong font" overprints, raised/broken letters, plate varieties – double transfers/recut lines, gum varieties, etc.

The removed/revised stamp varieties previously listed include: 24a, 24b, 39b, 56c, 56d, 56e, 56h, OX6a, and Essay, C13P1.

Please view/review the CZSG "Check List of Canal Zone Stamps and Postal Stationery" on the CZSG website: www.CanalZoneStudyGroup.com, and forward any comments and suggested changes to the Associate *CZP* Editor at rmbspiel@sbcglobal.net.

Further Reports Related to Double Transfers by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

The flat plate versions of the fourth Bureau issue were produced in 1922-26, and the versions overprinted CANAL ZONE appeared in 1924-28. The first regular reports of double transfers (DTs) on these stamps with CZ overprints did not appear in the *CZP* until some 50 years later. First the DT on the 5c Roosevelt with sharp A overprint was reported by Col. James T. DeVoss and George Brett. Their original report appeared in the *CZP* [11(4):25, 30-1 (1975)] and was apparently delayed as they tried to distinguish between a possible double impression versus an all-over double transfer.

Subsequent reports described DTs on flat plate stamps with both the flat A and sharp A overprints of the 30c Bison [*CZP* 49(2):21 (2013) and *CZP* 45(2):13,18 (2009)], the 1c postage due stamp J15 [*CZP* 22(4):29,31 (1986) and 45(1):10-1 (2009)], and the 12c Cleveland with flat A overprint, No. 76, which was first reported in *CZP* 23(2):11(1987). The plate number and position on which this DT occurred were identified in 2008 in *CZP* 44(3):30-32 as LL81 of plate 15350.

It seems Brett and DeVoss may also have known about the DT on Canal Zone No. 76, but evidently never reported their discovery, despite their evident intent to do so. This is indicated by two letters found in the George Brett files now at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum. The first is a letter from Jim DeVoss to George Brett dated February 15, 1982 in which he wrote:

Just a short quick note to let you know that Reidar Norby was able to locate the double transfer on the 12c Canal Zone, Flat Top "A" as coming from position 81, LL, Plate No. 15350.

This would be from one of the four plates used for the second printing of 30,000 stamps. With 400 stamps (4 panes of 100) per sheet, only 75 sheets were used for the second printing. If the four plates were utilized equally as well as all positions of the plate numbers, then approximately 18 copies of this rare double transfer could be found with the Canal Zone overprint.

I'll prepare a short story with photos and send it to the *CZP*, the *Bureau Specialist* and the *AP* and see if they would like to use it in the same monthly issue.

As part of an almost immediate reply on February 19, 1982, George Brett wrote:

Yes I have some comments on your CZ/US DT now that you have a report that it is position 81-LL-15350. First I'm sorry that the lad at the Smithsonian had so many proof sheets to check. I guess I assumed too much...

But here again, just like on the 5c, an easily determined DT and nobody can see it. Shows you that there will probably always be room for study and students. There will never be a final word.

But despite the letters that refer to this DT, there does not seem actually to have been a published report of this variety by DeVoss and Brett. Whatever happened to the knowledge of the existence of this DT seems to have been lost, as a search of the *Americal Philatelist*, the *Bureau Specialist* (now the *United States Specialist*), and *CZP* have failed to turn up a published report by Brett and DeVoss. Perhaps DeVoss followed Brett's advice "that you will now have to decide whether you want to try to find the sharp A DT [on the 12c Cleveland] before you publicize or give the lads something to shoot for." The lads, by the way, are defined in the letter to be "the boys on the book – Plass, etc." And how many other varieties might have been found but never publicized, instead waiting for someone in this era to remake the discovery?

It is important for interested collectors to check their holdings, and to report new discoveries as well as finds of additional copies of these that have been described previously in print. The numbers of copies that could possibly have been produced are generally very low, and the number of copies found apparently in the low single digits.

Reports to the Editor indicate there is now known to be a second copy of the major DT on No. 93, which is now listed in *Scott*. Additionally a second copy of the recently reported DT on the flat A variety of the 30c Bison, No. 79, by Dr. Kunihiro Tamura in Japan, is the most recent discovery.

Service Organizations in the Canal Zone

by Cary Finder

Service organizations had a long history of service and support in the Canal Zone. In 1904, the Army and Navy YMCA was invited to operate in the Zone. Shortly thereafter, they began construction at five locations, and by 1920, there were nine YMCA clubhouses in the Canal Zone. These were operated by the YMCA, but were financed by the Canal Zone. Prior to the canal opening, they were taken over by the Canal Administration. As early as 1909, Balboa Council 1371 of the Knights of Columbus (K of C) was operational in Panama City. While Panama City was legally in Panama and not the Zone, there was no hindrance in travel between Panama and the Canal Zone.

These service organizations are of philatelic interest because of their role, starting in World War I, of providing writing material to the troops for writing home. World War I was the first time that the US military had large numbers of troops outside of the US. Realizing that there was a potential morale problem (both for the soldiers and their friends and relatives in the States), the War Department enlisted the assistance of several service organizations to provide non-military and morale services to soldiers. Some assisted in the States, but others worked overseas, in Europe, Russian Far East, and the Panama Canal Zone.

In the Canal Zone, both the YMCA and the K of C began acquiring picture postcards for distribution to soldiers and sailors. They had their inscriptions imprinted on the backs of the cards. Most, but not all, of the cards they acquired were produced by I. L. Maduro, an important photographer of Panamanian views. It is not clear when these organizations began acquiring cards, but Maduro produced cards from 1904 into the 1920s.

In the United States, it would have been easy to identify a card from WWI because the stamp box would require 2c for domestic usage. Although the "Taft Agreement" provided that Canal Zone postal rates would be the same as domestic rates in the US, the Canal Zone never implemented the WWI War Tax that raised the rate in the US. Thus, WWI cards from the Zone cannot be identified solely from the postage used.

The YMCA used the two different imprints shown on cards in Figs. 1 and 2.

This inscription shown in Fig. 1 is known as early as August 1920, after the war, but the cards were still being used by service members.



Fig. 1 Horizontal YMCA inscription

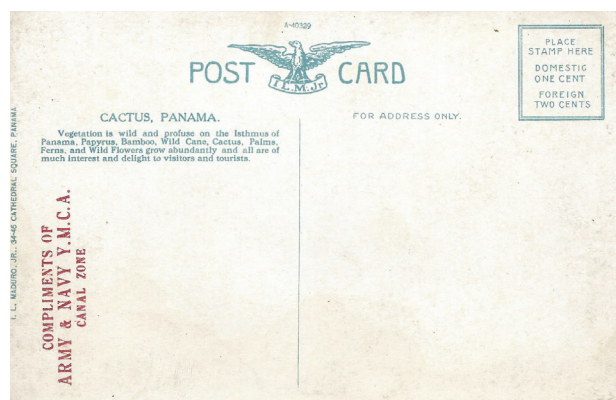


Fig. 2 Vertical YMCA inscription

The date of this inscription in Fig. 2 is unknown.

The K of C had at least three printed inscriptions and a couple of hand stamp inscriptions. Three of the printed inscriptions are shown in Figs. 3-5.

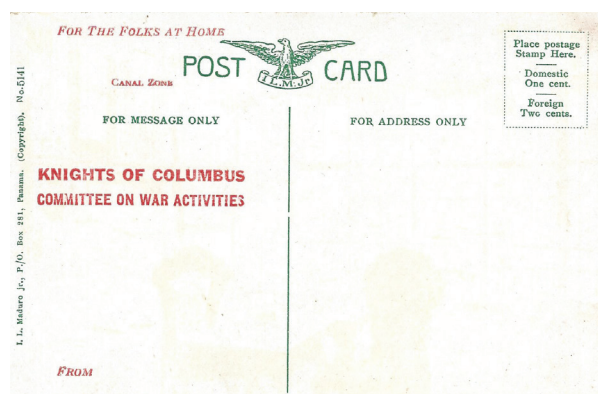


Fig. 3 Five-line K of C Inscription

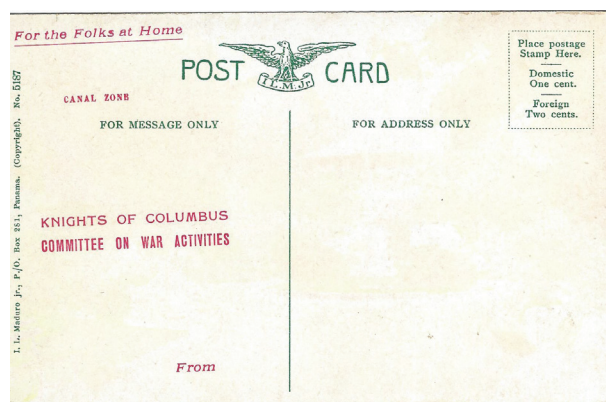


Fig. 4 Five-line K of C Inscription - 2nd Format

One of the handstamps used by the K of C is shown in Fig. 6.

Another interesting type of support provided by a service organization in the Canal Zone related to ham radio operations. In 1937, the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB), operating by that time as the Chaplains' Committee of the JWB, established a branch at a synagogue in Balboa with Rabbi Nathan Witkin, Jr. as the chaplain. A picture of the building was featured on Panama airmail C261, shown in Fig. 7. At the start of WWII, this facility, like the K of C and YMCA facilities, became affiliated with the USO.

As part of the services provided, the JWB established an amateur radio facility (operators were known as "hams")

under the radio call sign of KZ5JW. This facility allowed soldiers in the Zone to get radio relay to telephones in the States (short wave radio to an amateur operator in the States which could connect to a telephone line).

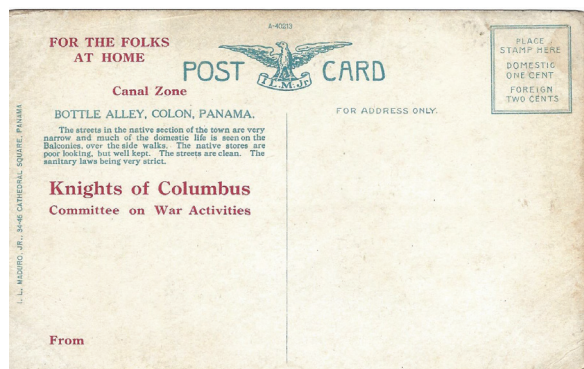
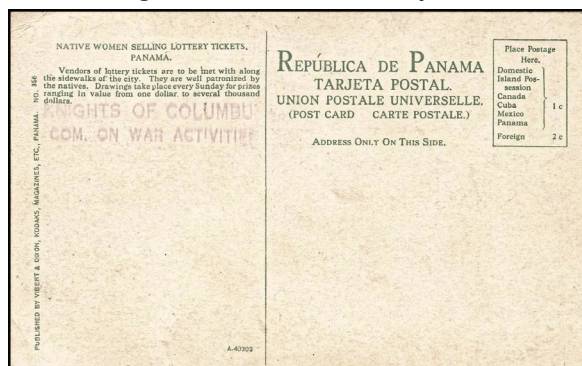


Fig. 5 Six-line K of C inscription



Courtesy of Greg Ciesielski

Fig. 6 K of C hand stamp inscription

It was common, when a contact was made between these “ham” operators, to follow up the contact with a “QSL” card. Two different QSL cards are known from KZ5JW. Fig. 8

shows one of these cards sent in 1968 from Balboa with Canal Zone No. 139 for postage to K2EUR in Hilton, New York, a town in northern New York on Lake Ontario.

If CZSG members have other examples of any of these types of cards, please contact the author or Editor.



Fig. 7 JWB in Balboa on C261



Fig. 8 QSL card from KZ5JW in the Zone

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Discoveries Relating to Canal Zone Postal Cards

Part 2: Surcharge Dies for Postal Card UX14 (S23) and Variety on Christmas Card CS10

by Irwin Gibbs and Richard D. Bates, Jr.

This continues the reports begun in the last issue of discoveries related to Canal Zone postal cards.

Dies for Postal Card UX14 (S23)

Canal Zone Postal Stationery (2009 Edition) indicates that S23 was printed with die 124322, which was die 124321 with "AIR MAIL" removed. It states specifically:

Because of depleted stocks of S21 and S22, and the lead time for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to prepare a new die for a 4c postal card, the Bureau of Engraving removed the words "AIR MAIL" from an existing die, creating a new 4c die, 124322. This die was used by the Panama Canal Press at La Boca to print a new definitive postal card, S23.

This information is misleading. Both dies 124321 and 124322 exist in the National Postal Museum vault among objects transferred to the NPM after the CZPS shut down. They are shown side-by-side in Fig. 1. Thus die 124322 was not created by removing "AIR MAIL" from existing die 124321; instead "AIR MAIL" was removed from a second die 124322.



Fig. 1 Image showing both dies (124321 and 124322) from the NPM vault with the die number visible



Fig. 2 Image showing die 124321 at left and, at right, 124322 with "AIR MAIL" removed, photographed directly from above

Appreciation is expressed to Jim O'Donnell of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum for assistance in locating and photographing the dies.

Christmas Card Variety Discovered

Member Mike Demski has sent scans of an interesting variety of the 1921 Christmas Card CS10.

The previously known card, originally sold at the Commissary Stores, has the message reading top down from on the right

side of the card. Note the card with the inverted backside is postmarked in 1921. The normal example shown here has a 1922 postmark.

The ordinary card shown in Fig. 3 is identified as a CS10. The newly discovered card shown in Fig. 4 will be identified as CS10a. It has the same message but the top of the message is on the left side of the card.

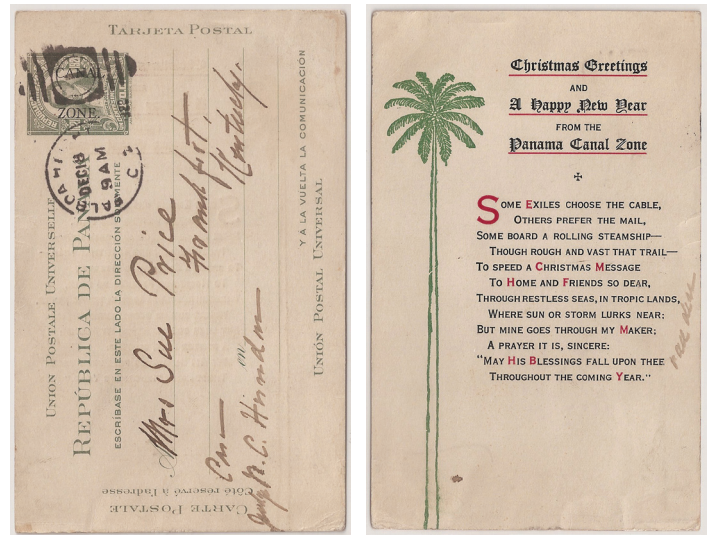


Fig. 3 Christmas card CS10 with image on reverse side normal

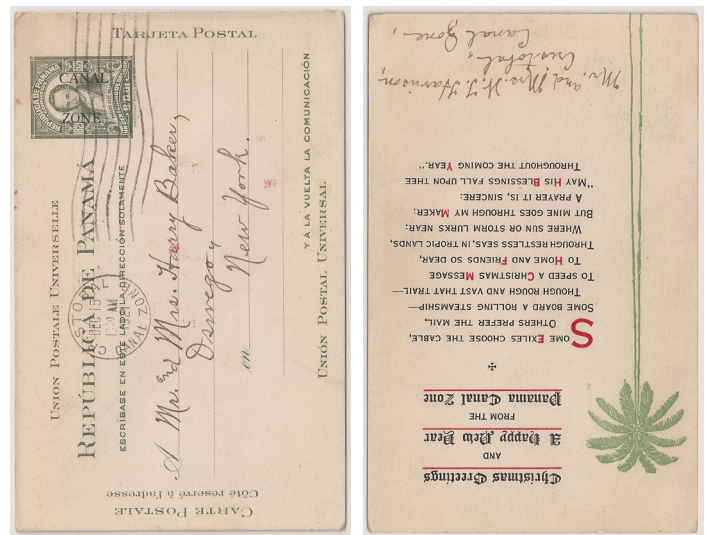


Fig. 4 Christmas card CS10a with image on reverse side inverted

Reports of other cards with this inverted orientation are sought from members, either on the 1921 card or on other Canal Zone Christmas Cards.

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